

# 2523034

Registered provider: Moonreach LTD

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## Information about this children's home

The children's home can provide care for up to three children who experience social and emotional difficulties. It is operated by a private company, which has other similar homes in the area.

There were three children living in the home at the time of this inspection.

There has not been a registered manager in the home since 20 May 2024.

**Inspection date: 28 January 2025**

**Date of last inspection:** 14 August 2024

**Judgement at last inspection:** requires improvement to be good

**Enforcement action since last inspection:** none

## Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspector evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

The inspector has looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, and to consider how well it complies with The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards'.

## Findings from the inspection

The inspector did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

The new deputy manager has brought stability and consistency to the home since the last full inspection. A new manager has been appointed, but they are yet to start in post. The manager's induction plan has been reviewed and improved with the intention of ensuring that any development needs can be swiftly identified and met. As the plan has not been implemented, the effectiveness is not yet known.

There is good oversight of safeguarding issues, and managers have positive relationships with external partners, who contribute to plans to protect children and reduce risks. Leaders have improved the way they record their responses to safeguarding concerns and are aware that they need to continue to strengthen staff practice around this. Children engage in meaningful conversations with staff around areas of vulnerability and learn how to keep themselves safe.

Managers are working hard to instil a culture of learning, reflection and professional curiosity. Trauma-informed approaches have been introduced, and leaders are ensuring that these are embedded into daily practice.

When children are absent from the home and there are concerns, staff respond according to the child's safety plan and in line with statutory guidance. When there is a suspicion that children are being exploited, managers proactively engage the multi-disciplinary network to devise methodical safety plans. Monitoring and recording of any concerning behaviour or activities are detailed, and actions taken to increase the safeguards around the child are multifaceted.

Staff have several forums of discussion to consider children's needs and the impact of the care they provide. There are good examples of children making progress at this home, particularly in developing their independence skills.

Children's bedrooms are tailored to their personal needs, and they are active participants in deciding their decor. Special occasions, such as birthdays, are thoughtfully considered, and staff are proactive in encouraging children to seek out activities that are in line with their interests.

As a result of the current instability of the management team, there is not an embedded system for monitoring and oversight of the quality of care that children receive. This means that managers are unable to be confident that they fully understand children's experiences of care and the resultant impact on their outcomes.

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
14/08/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good
31/10/2023	Full	Good
14/12/2022	Full	Good
08/02/2022	Full	Good

## What does the children’s home need to do to improve?

### Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person(s) must take to meet the Care Standards Act 2000, The Children’s Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the ‘Guide to the Children’s Homes Regulations, including the quality standards’. The registered person(s) must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
<p>The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children’s home that—</p> <p>helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and</p> <p>promotes their welfare.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—</p> <p>use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home; and</p> <p>understand the impact that the quality of care provided in the home is having on the progress and experiences of each child and use this understanding to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(h)(f))</p>	<p>30 May 2025</p>
<p>The registered provider must appoint a person to manage the children’s home if—</p> <p>there is no registered manager in respect of the home. (Regulation 27 (1)(a))</p>	<p>30 May 2025</p>
<p>The registered person must—</p> <p>ensure that each employee completes an appropriate induction.</p> <p>The registered person must ensure that all employees—</p> <p>undertake appropriate professional development. (Regulation 33 (1)(a) (4)(a))</p>	<p>30 May 2025</p>

In particular, ensure that the home's manager is supported and supervised to learn and develop.	
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## Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that the staff skills for safeguarding include being able to identify signs that children may be at risk and support children in strategies to manage and reduce any risks. ('Guide to the Children's Home Regulations, including the quality standards', page 43, paragraph 9.10)

## Children's home details

**Unique reference number:** 2523034

**Provision sub-type:** Children's home

**Registered provider:** Moonreach LTD

**Registered provider address:** 4 Dane John Works, Gordon Road, Canterbury CT1 3PP

**Responsible individual:** Fern Cowie

**Registered manager:** Post vacant

## Inspector

Tash Williams, Social Care Inspector

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